

Dr. Nancrede contributes an admirable notice of the late Dr. Francis Gurney Smith.

Dr. Bland, of Schuylkill County, met with five cases of typhoid fever in a family of ten, and he attributed the disease to water contaminated with fecal matter. Upon ceasing the use of the suspected well, the disease spread no further.

Dr. Humphreys, of Westmoreland County, from his own experience, speaks warmly in favour of the "bicarbonate of soda treatment" for burns.

B. L. R.

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ART. XXVI.—*Clinical Lectures on Diseases of Bone.* By C. MACNAMARA, Fel. Coll. Univ.; Surgeon to the Westminster Hospital, etc. 12mo. pp. viii., 298. London: Macmillan & Co., 1878.

VOLUMES of "Clinical Lectures" are, as a rule, hasty reviews of the subjects which they propose to discuss, and greatly lack scientific precision and accuracy; in fact, they seem too often to be mere printed reports of the author's extemporaneous talks to students. In the present instance this is not the case; the preface states that all the lectures have been revised, and a perusal will convince any one of the truth of the assertion. Exception may, perhaps, be taken to the title, which would seem to indicate that the reader is to find clinical (that is, bedside) instruction in the diagnosis and treatment of bone diseases. A careful study of the book, however, shows that the author's intention is to teach the pathology of osseous affections, as illustrated by many specimens and microscopic sections; while the diagnosis and means of relieving such diseases are to be touched upon in the most cursory manner.

Though the reader may be chagrined at not finding that which he sought, he will not be disappointed at the handling of that which he finds. Beginning with remarks on the development and anatomy of bone, which discuss the former almost to the exclusion of the latter, the author at once takes up inflammatory processes, such as osteomyelitis and periostitis; then directs attention to hypertrophy, sclerosis, tuberculous and syphilitic bone disease, necrosis and caries, rickets and mollities ossium; and, finally, concludes with a consideration of tumours of osseous tissue. The chapter on acute osteomyelitis embodies the result of much experience, for it is stated that in the author's practice in Calcutta, it was at one time rather the exception, not to have osteomyelitis subsequent to amputations and compound fractures. His treatment in such cases is similar to that recommended by Fayrer, namely, to amputate at once through or even above the joint situated between the diseased bone and the trunk. As soon as the local and general symptoms show pyæmic infection, the amputation is to be performed without being delayed an hour. He explains the fact that embolic infarctions occur in the lungs more frequently than in other organs as follows: "I believe that in pyæmia the whole of the blood in the body is charged with a deleterious agent, which, whether vital or chemical in its nature, is directly influenced by free oxygen, and meeting with an abundant supply of oxygen in the air-cells of the lungs, emboli are formed in the vessels, and necrosis of the pulmonary tissues, the so-called metastatic abscesses of septicopyæmia, result" (p. 28).

An interesting and important paragraph relates to epiphysitis, or inflammation of the structures lying between the diaphysis and epiphysis; this diseased condition of course only occurs in the young, and is usually acute in character. Its

differential diagnosis from suppurative arthritis, and its liability to give rise to fatal septicæmia, which may often be averted by free incision down to the epiphysis, invest the subject with no mean degree of surgical interest. The suggestion that "acute periostitis" so called, occurring only in the young, may be originally an epiphysitis seems to be a well-taken point.

The chapters on tuberculous disease of joints in children are especially interesting. The traumatic inflammation theory in regard to the etiology of these cases is rejected, and the affection is attributed to a scrofulous constitution. His argument is based, to a considerable extent, on the infrequency of joint-disease in the native children of Hindostan, though subject to blows and contusions as other children; this immunity is said to be due to the absence of the scrofulous diathesis in inhabitants of that country. Though agreeing with Gross in regard to the causation of coxalgia, and opposing Sayre's view, he evidently rejects the former's idea of the syphilitic origin of scrofula; he states that syphilis is widely spread in India, but that strumous diseases are rare (p. 106). As to treatment, he deprecates confinement in hospital wards during the incipient stage, and insists upon open air exercise, with such mechanical appliances as can best be adapted, even allowing some motion of the diseased joint rather than obtaining absolute rest at the expense of hygienic treatment. His commendation of Hutchison's method of treating coxalgia, as described in the *American Journal of the Medical Sciences* for January, 1879, would, in the opinion of the present writer, be unqualified.

Mr. Macnamara's experience is opposed to excision of the hip and knee for strumous arthritis: but to our mind unjustly, for the operation is certainly very satisfactory when, in poor families, the little patients cannot obtain careful nursing during the many months required for a spontaneous cure. In certain cases he has obtained good results by opening the joint, and introducing horse-hair drains through holes bored in the end of the bone (p. 125).

His confidence in Lister's antiseptic dressing in compound fractures, etc., seems to be great, but he suggests that there is danger at the present day of discredit being brought upon this method of treatment by those who seem desirous of demonstrating what amount of injury may be inflicted under the protection of antiseptic surgery without risk. For the treatment of syphilitic bone affections mercury is considered the sheet anchor, and iodide of potassium is regarded as only a palliative to be used when mercury cannot be employed. The belief expressed (p. 240) that union will occur in many cases of intracapsular fracture of the neck of the femur, if the fragments be kept at rest, is opposed to the experience and teaching of the writers of the present day. J. B. R.

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ART. XXVII.—*The Bearings of Chronic Disease of the Heart upon Pregnancy, Parturition, and Childbed, with papers on Puerperal Pleuropneumonia and Eclampsia.* By ANGUS MACDONALD, M.A., M.D., F.R.C.P.E., F.R.S.E., etc. 8vo. pp. 282. London: J. & A. Churchill, 1878.

ALTHOUGH of special interest to the practitioner of obstetrics, the subject entered upon by Dr. Macdonald in this work has much in it to attract the general practitioner, even though he may never attend a woman in labour, as a matter of choice. The question of physical eligibility for marriage, in the sense in which it is presented in this treatise, is one that should be understood and considered by every one who is called upon to treat cases of cardiac disease in female chil-